

The Double A Ranch

by Betty Cook

(Editor's Note): This is seventh in a series of articles on Appaloosa Breeders; their horses and their plans.

If you were driving through the Black Hills of South Dakota you would see a sign on highway 16 about ten miles out of Rapid City saying, "Double A Ranch". Beyond the sign would be a band of brood mares and foals grazing on short, rich, buffalo grass. The name "Double A" came about by using the first letter in the names of the Boggio's two favorite breeds of livestock—Appaloosas and Angus.

The 212 acre Double A Ranch is owned by Matt and Laura Boggio. The Boggio's have owned and raised Appaloosas since 1954; both Matt and Laura are equally enthusiastic about their horses. They expect sixteen foals in 1961 and at present have three stallions.

Matt and Laura have high hopes for the home raised Bubson of AA. As a yearling the past show season, Bubson of AA won eight firsts, one second, and a champion stallion award. The Boggio's senior stallion is a dark chestnut blanketed coming three year old son of Sharron's Topper called Deuce N. Deuce N was only shown once last season and won his class and went on to champion stallion. Recently Matt and Laura acquired the good Ida-



The Ranch House at Double A.



The barn, pen, and some of the Appaloosas at the Double A Ranch.

ho performance horse, Weaver's Smoke Signal.

The Boggio's are convinced that top quality mares are extremely important in a breeding program. They also believe in taking their mares out and establishing a good show record on them before they are retired to the brood band. Some of the mares they have done this with are Bathsheba of AA, twice grand champion mare of the Montana Appaloosa Show, reserve grand champion of the New York State Fair, grand champion mare over all breeds of the North Montana Horse and Pony Show, first place in Appaloosa pleasure and aged mare class at the Washington State College Show, just to mention a few of this good mare's wins. Probably a mare that causes the most comment is their demure, little rat-tailed Pixie of AA. She has been shown two seasons and has such wins to her credit as: champion mare of the Northwest International Appaloosa Show, champion mare at the North Montana Horse and Pony Show, reserve champion mare at the Montana Appaloosa Show, Fort Meade Show and Range Days Show. Pixie of AA has always been an outstanding performer in pleasure classes too.

One of the older brood mares in the herd is Dark Shadow; she was Laura's first Appaloosa and they won the ladies pleasure class at the 1954 National Appaloosa Show. Dark Shadow is the dam of such mares as Navajo Turquoise of AA, now owned by John Mullins of Plainview, Nebraska, Moonstone of AA, a yearling owned by Dr. Theodore Chendrow, Bozeman, Montana, and Fire Opal of AA, who is retained in the Boggio show string. Fire Opal of AA is a three year old mare



BUBSON OF AA, Laura Boggio at halter.

and the past summer she championed the Montana Appaloosa Show, the Northwest International Appaloosa Show and the Wyoming State Fair as well as placing high in pleasure classes at these shows. At the Wyoming State Fair Matt rode her to a second place in a large open men's pleasure class.

Matt's pet mare is a flashy leopard two year old called Queen Bee of AA. He says he felt he had something extra-special the day she was foaled. Queen Bee has fulfilled his hopes so far by taking one championship and four reserves plus breaking out very nicely.

Matt and Laura devote much time and effort to the Appaloosa horse. Laura was secretary of the Montana Appaloosa Horse Club for five years, and Matt served as a director of the club. Matt is vice president of the newly formed Center of the Nation Appaloosa Horse Club and Laura is back in her role as secretary. They have hauled their Appaloosas many miles to shows and like to show their horses in open classes as they feel that it is good for the Appaloosa to show and possibly place over other breeds.

The Double A Ranch usually has a few horses for sale. Quite a few colts are sold at weaning time, others are grown out to show and sell. A few are being readied for some of the Appaloosa Horse Club approved sales over the country. Double A Appaloosas have been sold to buyers in Canada, Hawaii, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Texas, Michigan, Indiana, New York, Idaho, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Louisiana and other states.

The Boggio's aims for the future are to

continue to raise and show Appaloosas. The slogan for the Double A Ranch is "Quality — Performance — Color. That expresses Matt and Laura's feeling that conformation is all important. It produces a horse able to work and be used. And last if the horse has color then it is an Appaloosa worthy of time, effort, a show career and a breeding prospect.

